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AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

59
FEB

$2
$1.20 IN U.S.

CARROLL · KING
ROUGH · POPE
and · other · reads

A Note from the Publisher

This month has been a big one for pleasant surprises here at Aardvark-Vanaheim.

First - we received in the mail a copy of Canadian Author and Bookman. For those of you unfamiliar with it, this magazine is a very prestigious one here in Canada. It certainly is not the type you would expect to see comic books mentioned in. However, there was more than a mention, there was a whole page devoted to our little furry diplomat. Quotes from Dave as well as comments on the success of Cerebus were included, and, on the whole I was really pleased with the attention the book was getting.

Then, a week later, the mail brought two more surprises. One was a review (a positive one) of Swords of Cerebus, Volumes One - Four in the Canadian Book Review Annual. Having never been noticed by the Canadian publishing scene before, this kind of attention was quite surprising. I found it interesting that Swords of Cerebus was placed in the "Humanities and Applied Arts" section of the reviews.

In the same week, we received a letter and award, suitable for framing, (which it will be) from the Comic Buyers Guide for the 1984 Customer Service Award. In fact, the logo we are entitled to use is at the bottom of this page. This award was particularly pleasing as we have always made a special effort to have our ads look as fun and crazy as our books. It seems that the time spent on them was worth while.

One of the nice things about having this page is I get to pass on word to you, from time to time, about new titles that I think are worth checking out. I have two in mind this month. One of them is done by a friend of ours, Tom Stazer. The title of his book is SPACED. The main character, Lip, is one that grows on you as you continue to read the series. In fact, I have just accepted a SPACED story from Tom for a future issue of Unique in Cerebus 66 and 67 (September and October). I hope that you will take the time to check out the latest issue, #4. An ad for SPACED appears elsewhere in this issue.

The other title I would like to mention, is First Comic's MARS. There are plenty of stories with women as the main character. I'm also aware that science-fiction is doing better in comics right now than it has in a long time. But Morgana is in a class of her own, as are Mark Wheatley and Marc Hempel. The stories flow well and the art is great! The only regret I have concerning MARS is I didn't get to publish it myself.

One last announcement before I go. In the artwork sale on last issue's inside back cover, you may have noticed that the art to issues #55 on up weren't listed. This was just an oversight on my part. As soon as an issue is out, the pages are for sale. The pages are available, for $100.00 each. If you are interested, please remember to list two alternate choices.

That's about it for this month. Next month I'll be telling you a little more about two new titles that will be coming out this year, and all the exciting Cerebus projects Dave has in the works. Till then, take care!

CBG
Customer Service
Award — 1984

Deni

CEREBUS

VOL.1 NO.59 FEBRUARY 1984

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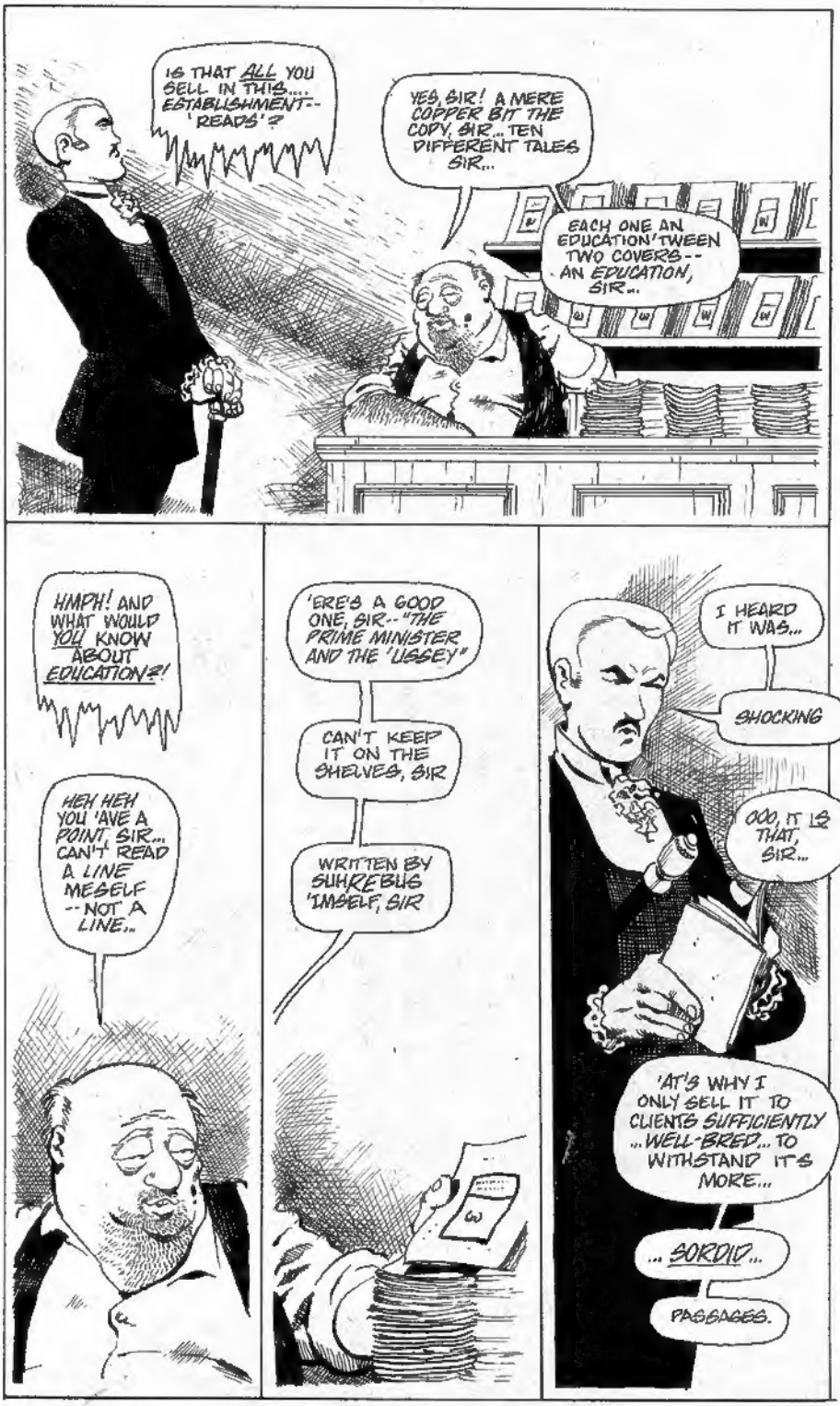
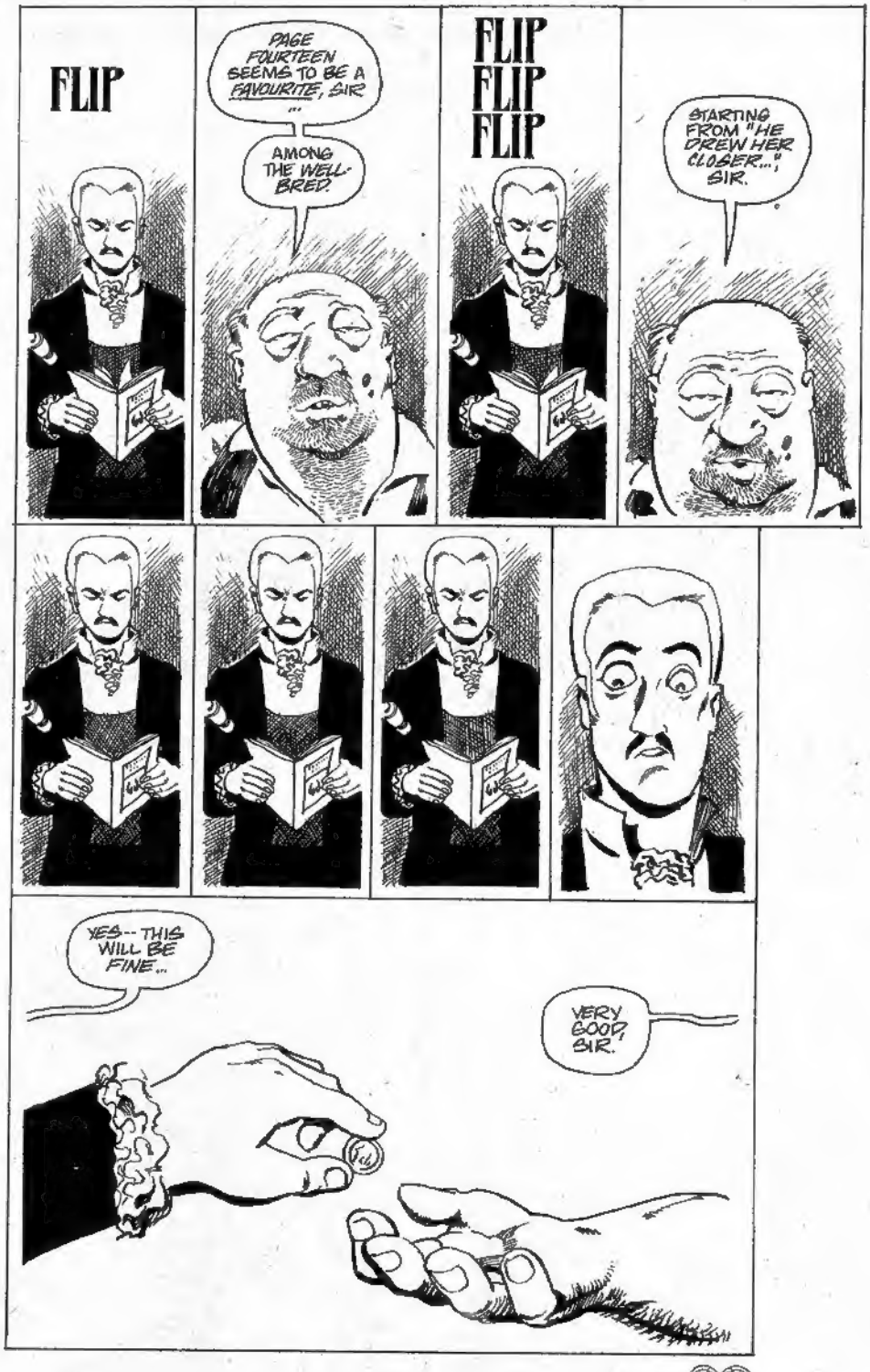
CARROLL E. KING READS

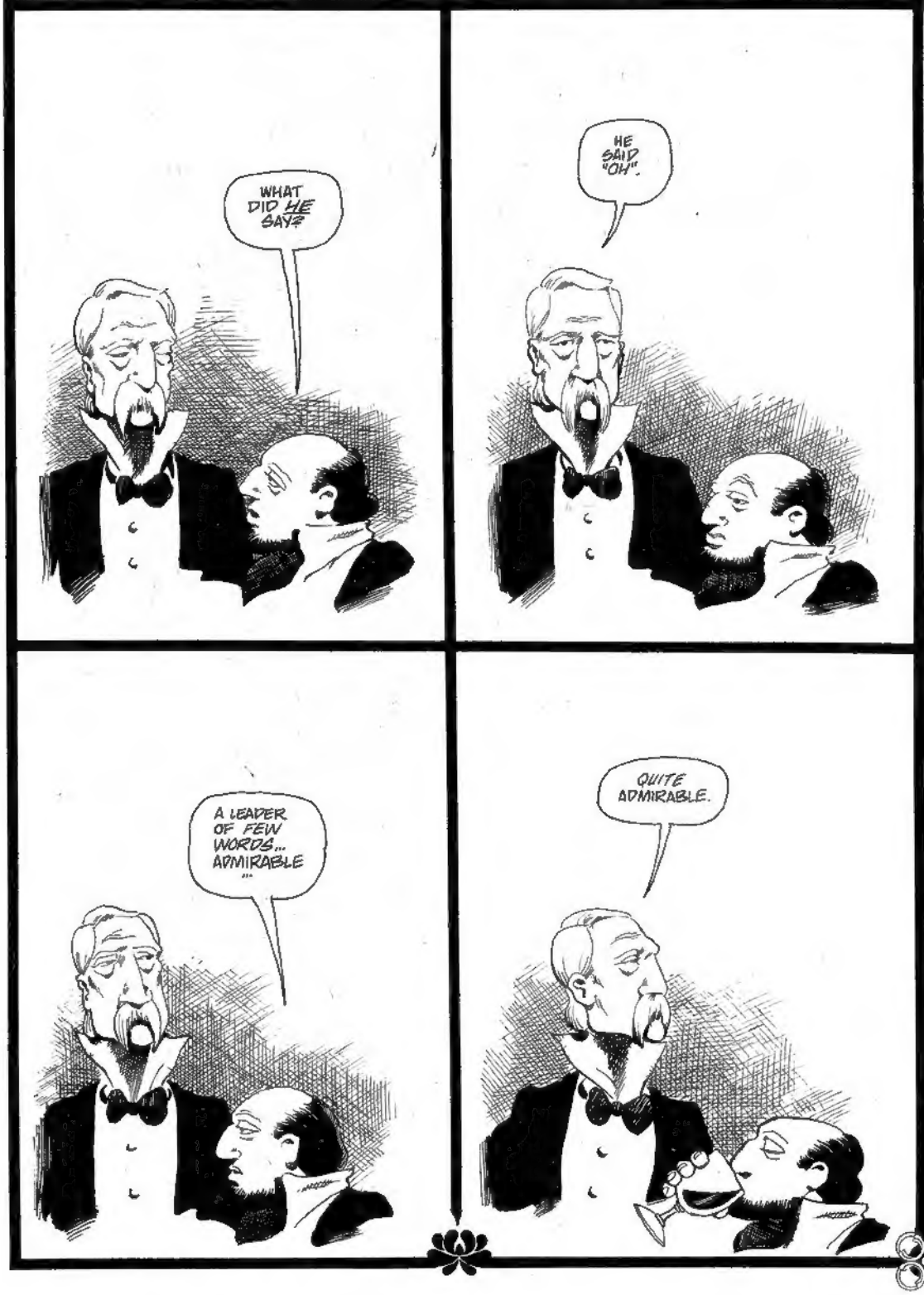

IS THAT ALL YOU SELL IN THIS.... ESTABLISHMENT-- 'READS'?
YES SIR! A MERE COPPER BIT THE COPY, SIR... TEN DIFFERENT TALES SIR...
EACH ONE AN EDUCATION 'TWEEN TWO COVERS-- AN EDUCATION, SIR...
HMPH! AND WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT EDUCATION?!
HEH HEH YOU 'AVE A POINT, SIR... CAN'T READ A LINE MESELF -- NOT A LINE...
'ERE'S A GOOD ONE, SIR-- "THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE 'USSEY"
CAN'T KEEP IT ON THE SHELVES, SIR
WRITTEN BY SUHREBUS 'IMSELF, SIR
I HEARD IT WAS...
SHOCKING
OOO, IT IS THAT, SIR...
'AT'S WHY I ONLY SELL IT TO CLIENTS SUFFICIENTLY ...WELL-BRED... TO WITHSTAND IT'S MORE...
... SORDID...
PASSAGES.


FLIP
PAGE FOURTEEN SEEMS TO BE A FAVOURITE, SIR ...
AMONG THE WELL-BRED?
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
STARTING FROM "HE DREW HER CLOSER...", SIR.
YES-- THIS WILL BE FINE...
VERY GOOD, SIR.

AT THE CLUB

I MET THE PRIME MINISTER ONCE...
:sniff:
REALLY. I DIDN'T KNOW.
OH, YES. WE SHOOK HANDS IN THE LOBBY OF THE REGENCY ...
SO WHAT DOES HE LOOK LIKE? ...
MUCH, MUCH SHORTER THAN YOU WOULD IMAGINE. AND AS IS SO... COMMON... WITH ... SUCH CASES, HE'S SOMEWHAT..
:cough:
... DEFORMED
DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE HELD HIM BACK AT ALL, THOUGH.... ADMIRABLE.
QUITE ADMIRABLE.
I TOLD HIM THAT IEST HAS ALWAYS RESERVED HER GREATEST AFFECTION FOR LEADERS WHO ARE MEN OF ACTION, AS WELL AS MEN OF TARIM ...

ONE AFTERNOON



MEMOIRS

"On Governing" PART the FIFTH
by Cerebus, Permanent Prime Minister of Iest

Responsibility

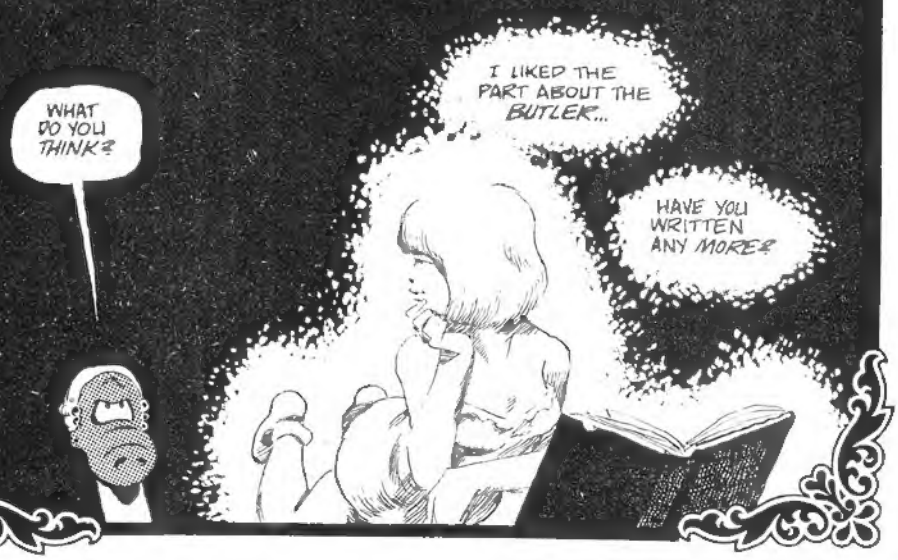
Everyone says that having power is a great responsibility. This is a lot of bunk. Responsibility is when someone can blame you if something goes wrong. When you have power you are surrounded by people whose job it is to take the blame for your mistakes. If they're smart, that is. Some of Cerebus' staff used to insist on only taking the blame for their <u>own</u> mistakes. Cerebus had a bunch of them charged with treason and executed. At the very next meeting, one of Cerebus' mistakes was mentioned and Cerebus asked whose fault is this? Every hand in the room went up, Cerebus told them all not to let it happen again and we moved on to other mistakes.

Teamwork and loyalty are the cornerstones of good government.

Like, for instance, there was nothing Cerebus could do about the economy. Lord Julius set the interest rates and decided how much Lest's crown was worth. As soon as the staff and Cerebus' cabinet realized that everything wrong with the economy was Lord Julius' fault, we started having more meetings about it. Cerebus would say "What are we going to do about high interest rates?" Everyone would shrug and say "What *can* we do? Lord Julius is the one who sets the rate." Cerebus would look thoughtful and say "That's true. Our hands are tied." Then everyone would nod and shrug their shoulders at once.

Unity is another cornerstone of good government.

Once some new guy said "Why don't we try to beat Lord Julius at his own game?" Cerebus threw a paperweight at him and knocked him cold. The next meeting we had on the economy, he shrugged and nodded in all the right places so Cerebus had his wife and children released and dropped the treason charge against him.



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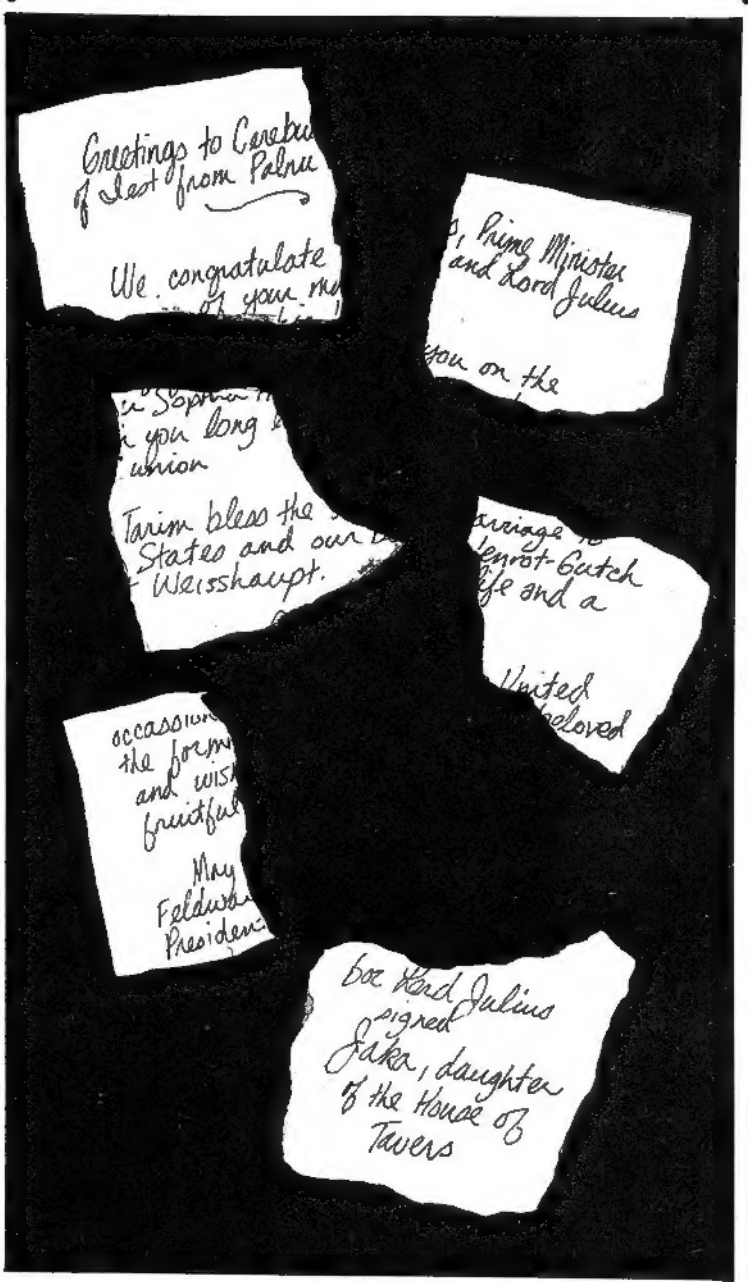
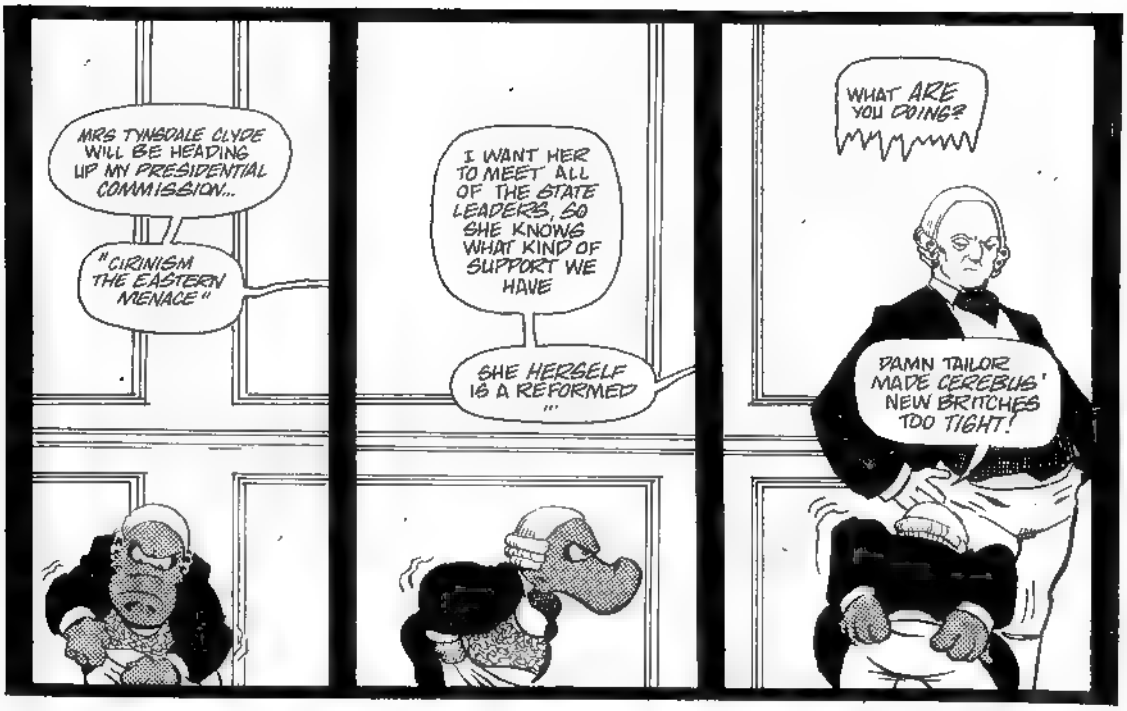
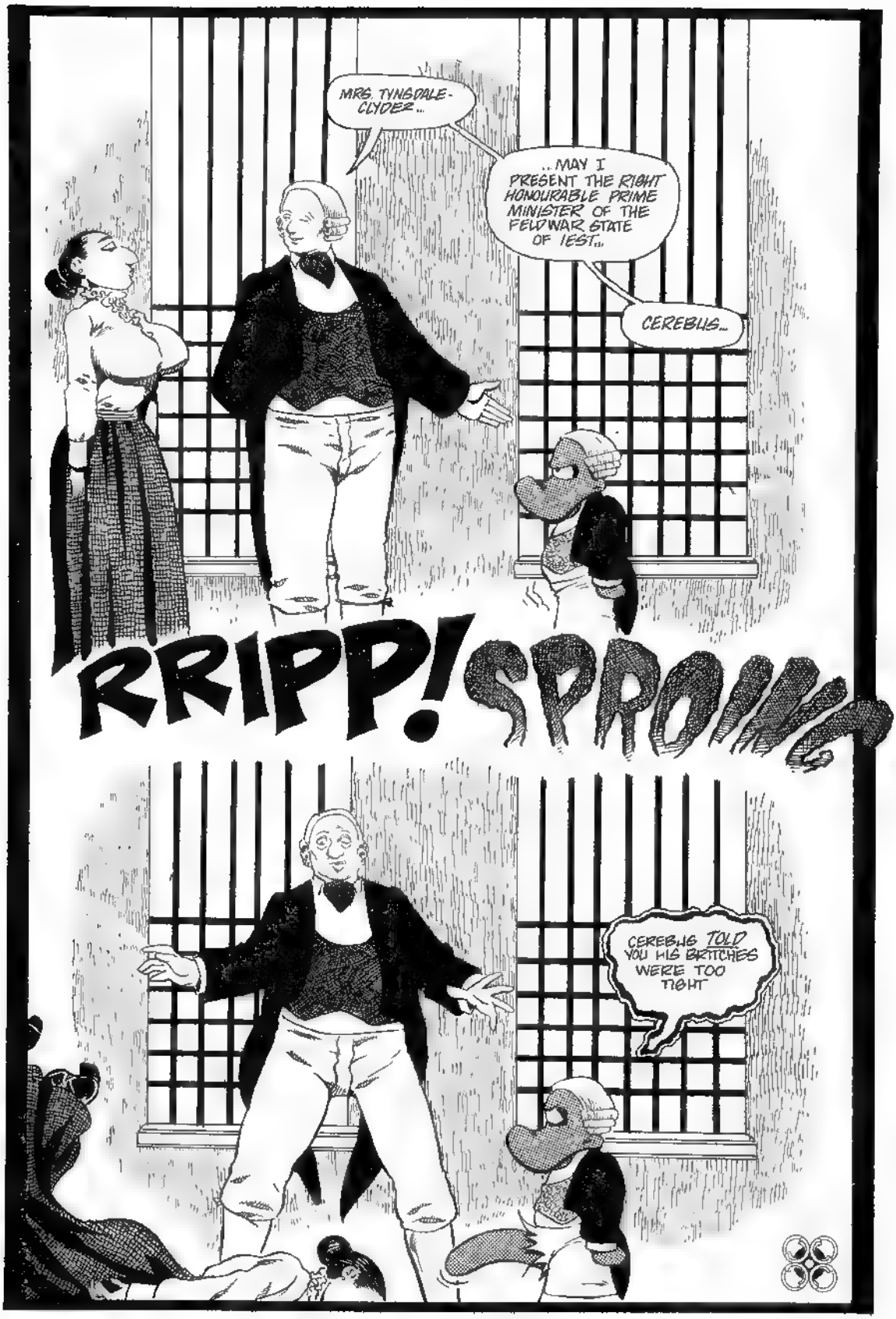

Greetings to Cerebu
of Lest from Palnu
We congratulate
Prime Minister
and Lord Julius
you on the
Tarim bless the
States and our
Weisshaupt.
occasion
the form
and wish
fruitful
May
Feldwa
Presiden
Lor Lord Julius
signed
Jaka, daughter
of the House of
Tavers


MRS TYNSDALE CLYDE WILL BE HEADING UP MY PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION...
"CIRINISM THE EASTERN MENACE"
I WANT HER TO MEET ALL OF THE STATE LEADERS, SO SHE KNOWS WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT WE HAVE
SHE HERSELF IS A REFORMED ...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DAMN TAILOR MADE CEREBUS' NEW BRITCHES TOO TIGHT!

FIRST IMPRESSION

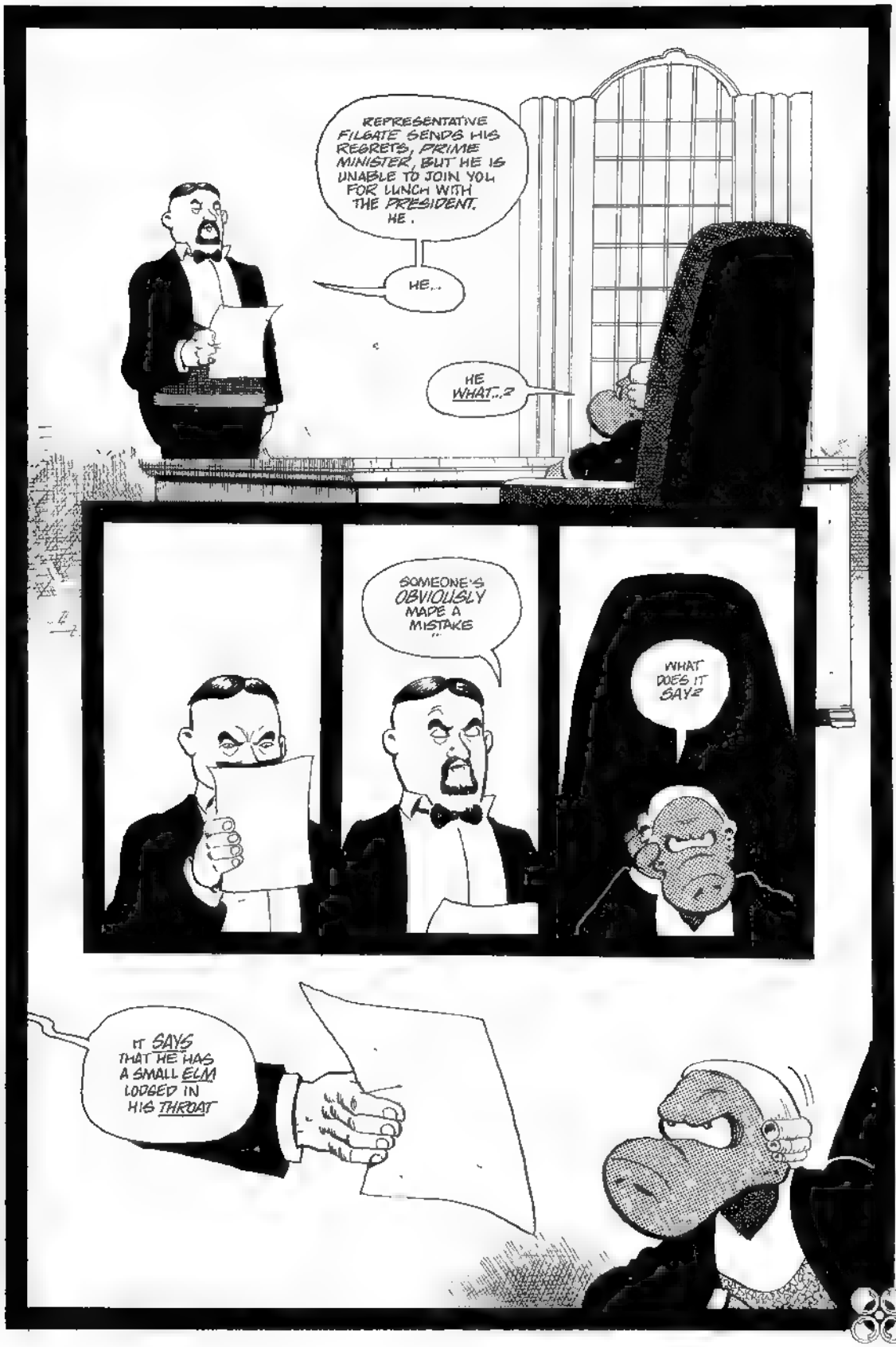
MRS. TYNSDALE-CLYDE IS A LADY OF IMPECCABLE CHARACTER. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT SHE WILL FIND YOU PAWING AT YOURSELF AS UNAPPETIZING A SIGHT AS DO I!!
DESIST AT ONCE!!
NOW COME ALONG!
REMEMBER! NO UNSAVORY REFERENCES! NO GUTTER HUMOUR! NO PERSONAL REMARKS! NO BELCHING! NO SCRATCHING YOUR ARMPITS...


MRS. TYNSDALE-CLYDER...
...MAY I PRESENT THE RIGHT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER OF THE FELDWAR STATE OF IEST...
CEREBUS...
RRIPP!
SPROING
CEREBUS TOLD YOU HIS BRITCHES WERE TOO TIGHT

TREE PLANTING

WE ARE VERY PLEASED DAT WE HAVE GODDA-- WATCHA CALL--SPESHUL GUEST WID US T'DAY F'D'PLANTIN' OF DIS HE' SARAHMOANIAL TREE...
SHE IS D'MUDDAH OF OUAH PROIME MINISTUH'S NEW-- AND, I MOIGHT ADD, NOT BADLY PUT T'GEDDUH-- WIFE..
OF COAHSE, DIS IS C'MEMMUHRATIN' D'START O' "MUDDAH'S WEEK" IN IEST...

SOW! WIT'OUT FOITHUH ADOO, IT IS MOY EXTREME PLEZHUH T'INNUHDUCE ...
D'PROIME MINISTUH'S MUDDAH 'N LAW..
MIZZEZ HENRAHT!
HENROT-GUTCH...
GEZUNDHOYT.
HA HA HA HA HA HA
GEZUNDHOYT! HAHAHA!
Y'GEDDIT? HANH? 'SLIKE A SNEEZE! HENRAHT-GUTCH!
HAHHAH GEDDIT? HANH? HANH?


REPRESENTATIVE FILGATE SENDS HIS REGRETS, PRIME MINISTER, BUT HE IS UNABLE TO JOIN YOU FOR LUNCH WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE.
HE...
HE WHAT...?
SOMEONE'S OBVIOUSLY MADE A MISTAKE
WHAT DOES IT SAY?
IT SAYS THAT HE HAS A SMALL ELM LODGED IN HIS THROAT

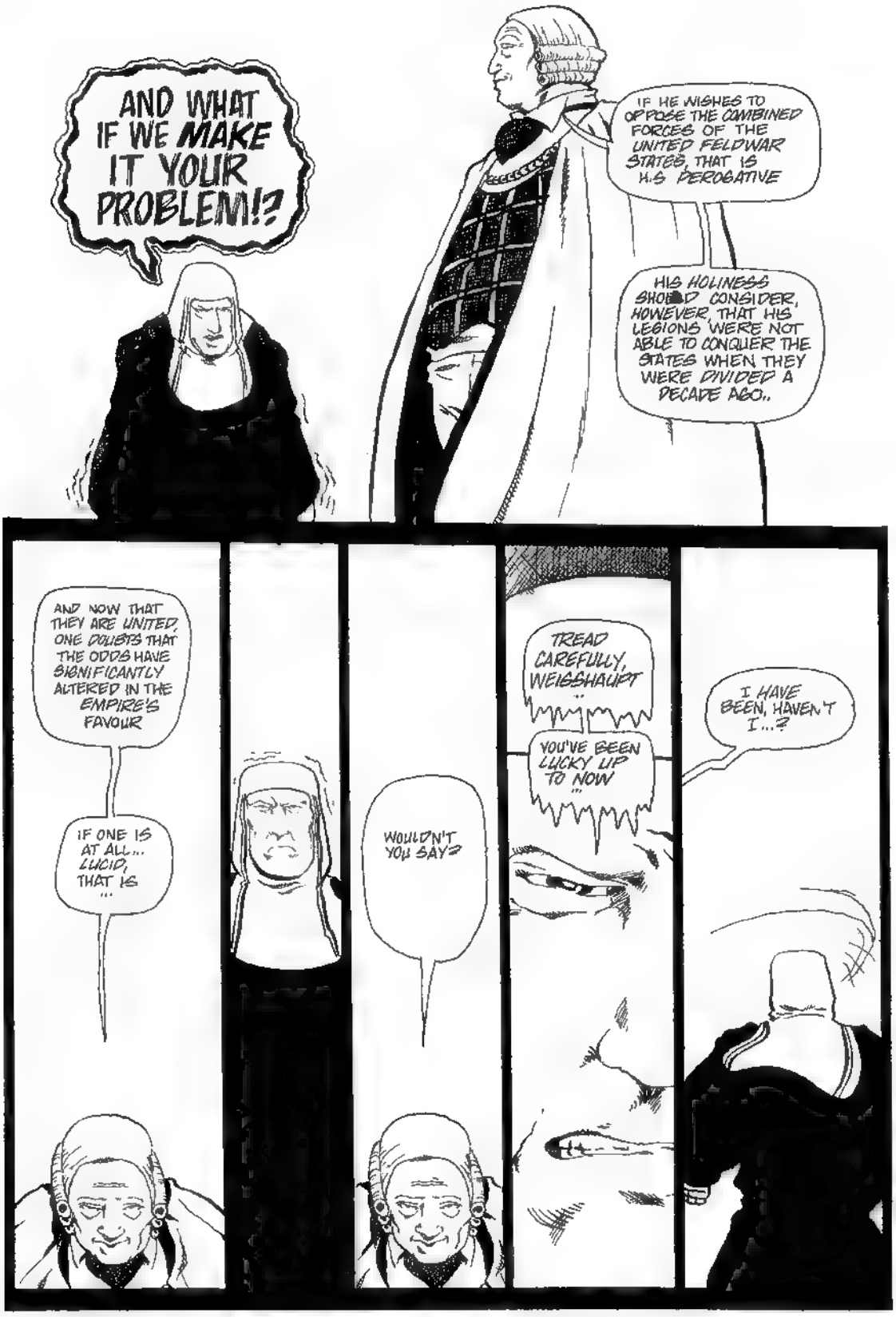
A P P R O V E D · B Y
THE PRESIDENT'S REVISED DRAFT FOR THE 'ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS' IN THE SOUTHERN CITY-STATES ...
AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE LOWER FELDAN TAXATION ACT FOR FISCAL 14 5..
ALLOCATION OF IESTAN STATE FUNDS FOR IMPROVING GOVERNMENT ROADS AND BRIDGES IN THE LOWER CITY..

AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF PROPERTY RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS AS PERTAINS TO...
LOOK-- IF CEREBUS WANTS TO KNOW WHAT HE'S SIGNING, CEREBUS WILL ASK! OKAY..?
YES, SIR...
Cerebus
Cerebus
Cerebus
MUCH FASTER THIS WAY, DON'T YOU THINK?
YES, SIR

ROUGH POPE

YOUR NOTE MENTIONED A PROBLEM OF...
HOW DID YOU PUT IT?
AH, YES.
"OF GREAT MOMENT AND UTMOST IMPORTANCE"!
I PREFER TO STAND WEISSHAUPT
NEEDLESS TO SAY, MY CURIOSITY WAS PIQUED...
ANOTHER PONTIFF HAS BEEN EXECUTED, WEISSHAUPT ...
AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING FACETIOUS ...
...POWERS
THE LION OF SERREA SEEMS TO BE RUNNING OUT OF HARMONIES ...
SUIT YOURSELF
POWERS ...
HIS HOLINESS DEMANDS THAT YOU GIVE US A SUITABLE CANDIDATE ...
THE BISHOPS OF THIS... THIS CITY-STATE ARE ALL BLASPHEMERS, TRAITORS-- CIRINISTS-- KEVILLISTS ...

NOT TO MENTION ILLUSIONISTS, THIEVES REPUBLICANS, DRUNKS, IDIOTS...
...AND ONE RATHER INTERESTING CHAP WHO - RUMOUR HAS IT - WEARS WOMEN'S CLOTHING BENEATH HIS ROBES
HOWEVER, IF THE "GREAT FELINE" WOULD TAKE THE TROUBLE TO READ THE FORMATION ACT WHICH BEARS BOTH OF OUR SIGNATURES
AND WHICH MAKES IEST A MEMBER OF THE UNITED FELDWAR STATES
HE WOULD NOTICE ARTICLE FIVE WHICH OUTLINES MOST SPECIFICALLY "THE SEPARATION OF POWERS BETWEEN MY GOVERNMENT AND HIS CHURCH"
TO WIT, "THE SPIRITUAL WELFARE OF THE POPULACE OF IEST IS THE EXCLUSIVE PROVINCE OF HIS HOLINESS"
THE SELECTION OF AN EASTERN PONTIFF TO RULE IN HIS NAME ...WHO, BY LAW MUST BE A NATIVE IESTAN... FALLS UNDER THE HEADING OF SPIRITUAL WELFARE
IT IS, NO QUESTION ABOUT IT -- A THORNY PROBLEM
BUT... POWERS
IT'S NOT... MY... PROBLEM


AND WHAT IF WE MAKE IT YOUR PROBLEM!?
IF HE WISHES TO OPPOSE THE COMBINED FORCES OF THE UNITED FELDWAR STATES, THAT IS H.S PERROGATIVE
HIS HOLINESS SHOULD CONSIDER, HOWEVER, THAT HIS LEGIONS WERE NOT ABLE TO CONQUER THE STATES WHEN THEY WERE DIVIDED A DECADE AGO..
AND NOW THAT THEY ARE UNITED, ONE DOUBTS THAT THE ODDS HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED IN THE EMPIRE'S FAVOUR
IF ONE IS AT ALL... LUCID, THAT IS ...
WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
TREAD CAREFULLY, WEISSHAUPT ..
YOU'VE BEEN LUCKY UP TO NOW ...
I HAVE BEEN, HAVEN'T I...?

SLAM
...POWERS.
TARIM.

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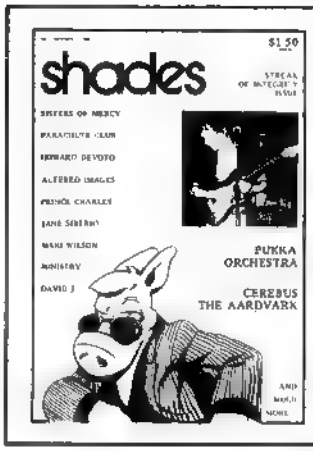

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A UNIQUE STORY

THIS IS KIDMUND KREBBS. HE HAS NOT SHOWN UP FOR WORK TODAY.
THIS IS NOT UNUSUAL. HE'S CALLED IN SICK, TWICE A MONTH, FOR TWO YEARS.
THE ODD THING ABOUT THIS AFTERNOON IS THAT HE HAS LOST HIS WAY.
HE THOUGHT HE KNEW HIS TOWN BETTER..
BOOKS
A BOOKSTORE. GUESS I'D BETTER ASK WHERE I AM.
KIDMUND ENTERS THE BOOKSTORE.. AND UNKNOWINGLY SETS THE COSMIC WHEEL OF CHANGE TO MOTION.
HE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.
HUH! MORE FOG IN HERE THAN OUTSIDE!
SCRATCH
WILD PLACE YOU HAVE HERE! LOOKS JUST LIKE A SIXTIES HEAD SHOP!
..LOUSY BOOKS, THOUGH. NO ELLISON, NO BRADBURY, NOT EVEN EDGAR CAYCE!
NOT A WORD OUT OF THIS GUY.. QUIET TYPE, I GUESS.
BY TREADWELL

ANYWAY, I HOPED YOU COULD TELL ME WHAT STREET THIS IS.
I MANAGED TO GET LOST, AND.. WHOA! THAT'S SOME GRIP!
?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
YOU WANT ME TO LOOK AT THIS BOOK?
OFF! YOU WANT ME TO TAKE THIS BOOK?
IT'S A NICE BOOK. IT LOOKS OLD AND EXPEN-SIVE... AND I CAN'T READ A WORD OF IT.
IT'S FRENCH, RIGHT? ANY-WAY, I DON'T COLLECT THIS STUFF..
.. SO, IF YOU COULD JUST... HEY! QUIT PUSHING! JUST BECAUSE I DON'T WANNA BUY ANYTHING... GEEZ!
NO REASON FOR RUDENESS HERE!
OKAY, BE THAT WAY, YOU OLD.. HEY! YOU FORGOT YOUR BOOK!
BOOK
CAN YOU HEAR ME? I SAID YOU FORGOT... AW, SKIP IT.
MAN! THAT FOG BACK AND IT'S SO BAD I CAN'T EVEN SEE THE PLACE!
WEIRD!
AH! IT'S CLEARING.. BUT.. THIS IS INSANE! I'M ON A DIFFERENT S.. STREET...
..I KNOW THIS STREET!
THIS IS THE CORNER OF CULBERT AND ROSENBERG! I LIVE ON THE NEXT BLOCK!
CULBERT
H..HOW DID I GET BACK HERE?

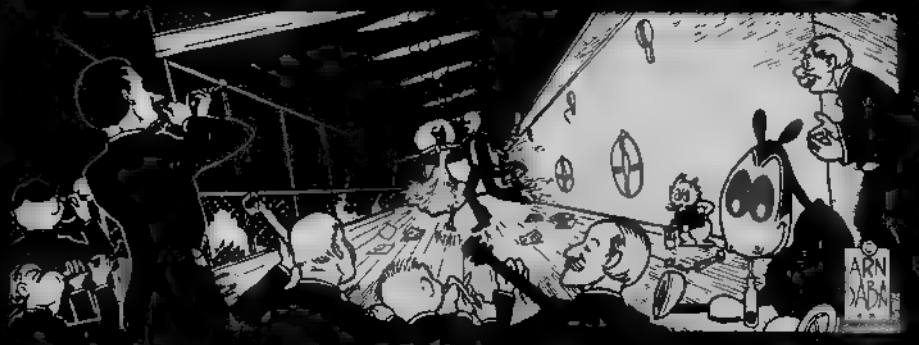
LATER, AT KIDMUND'S APARTMENT..
I STILL CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW I GOT TO THAT BOOK-SHOP..
OH WELL... MAYBE A FEW BEERS WILL CALM ME DOWN.
BOOM!
WHOOPS! THERE GO THE LIGHTS. LET'S SEE..THERE'S A CANDLE ON THIS TABLE, SOMEWHERE...
THAT'S BETTER!.. MIGHT AS WELL CHECK OUT THE BOOK THE OLD GUY GAVE ME..
HERE WE GO..HUH! IT FELL RIGHT OUT OF ITS COVER. ..BOOK MUST BE EVEN OLDER THAN I THOUGHT.
FLOP!
WHAT'S THIS?! THE PAGE IT FELL OPEN TO..IS WRITTEN IN PLAIN, CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH!
I COULD HAVE SWORN THE WHOLE THING WAS IN SOME OTHER LANGUAGE!
"HOW TO SUMMON THE HALF DEMON.."
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! THIS MUST BE SOME KIND OF A JOKE!
AGGA, KIEV YKROOG!
OH WELL.. I DIDN'T REALLY EXPECT... WAIT! THAT FOG!
IT'S JUST LIKE THAT FOG AT THE SHOP!
OBOY.
THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH! I'M GETTING OUT..
OBOY.

TA-DAA!
HIYA, KID.
I DID IT! I'VE SUMMONED FORTH.. A.. AH...
A DEMON, KID.
YEAH! WOW! GOSH!
..AND IT'S ALL MINE! MY OWN DEMON, UNDER MY CONTROL! HA HA HA!
Y'OUGHTTA TURN ON SOME LIGHTS IN HERE...
BAD FOR YOUR EYES, READIN' BY CANDLE LIGHT...
LET'S SEE, NOW.. FIRST, I WANT A MILLION BUCKS! THEN, ANOTHER TWO MILLION TO PAY THE TAXES ON IT, THEN...
"SNICKER"
HAW HAR HAR HAW
OKAY, SO MAYBE I DID GET A BIT OFF TRACK, HERE.. YOU DON'T HAVE TO LAUGH AT ME!
NAW, KID, I WOULDN'T DO THAT..
J..JUST ONE QUESTION THOUGH, "MASTER"..
Y'WANT YOUR THREE MILLION IN TENS OR TWENTIES?
HAW HA!
!!
THAT'S GOOD, KID. GOOD. NOW GET ME A BEER, HUH?
HOLD IT! WHO INVITED YOU HERE, ANYWAY?
BEATS ME! ..GUESS IT WAS TH'GUY THAT READ THE SPELL OUTTA THE BOOK! ... YOU GOT ANY IDEA WHO THAT COULD'A BEEN?
NICE PLACE Y'GOT HERE.
TO BE CONTINUED

EVEN MORE IN '84

CEREBUS

JOURNEY



NEIL THE HORSE

ON SALE HERE

NORMALMAN

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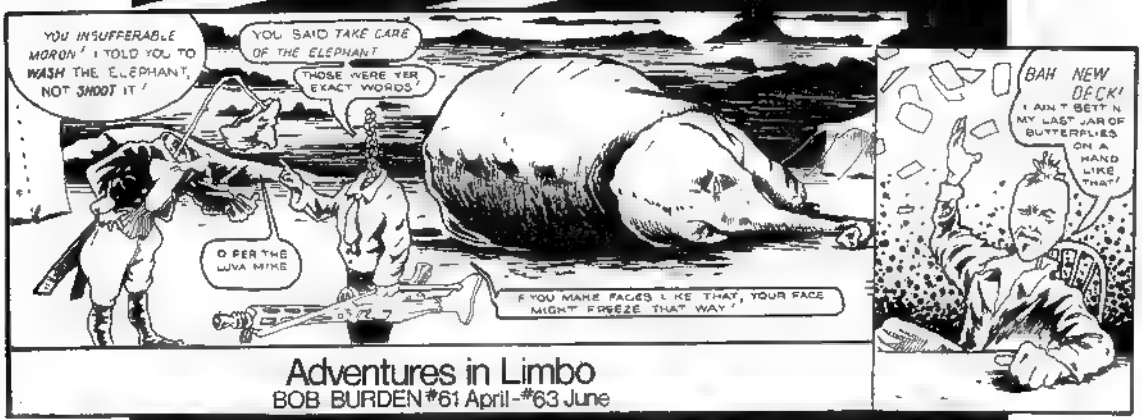
UNIQUE STORIES


YOU INSUFFERABLE MORON! I TOLD YOU TO WASH THE ELEPHANT, NOT SHOOT IT!
YOU SAID TAKE CARE OF THE ELEPHANT
THOSE WERE YER EXACT WORDS!
O PER THE LUVA MIKE
IF YOU MAKE FACES LIKE THAT, YOUR FACE MIGHT FREEZE THAT WAY!
BAH NEW DECK! I AIN'T SETT'N MY LAST JAR OF BUTTERFLIES ON A HAND LIKE THAT!

Adventures in Limbo

BOB BURDEN #61 April-#63 June

BECAUSE YOU ARE MY WIFE, THAT AUTOMATICALLY MAKES YOU HIS MOTHER CORRECT?
FILBERT RAZZMA!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS
I'M SO HAPPY I HOPE YOU ARE GLAD TOO!
R

Ricky Robot

JERRY SIEGEL #64 July-#65 August

Wish Zone

TOM STAZER #66 Sept.-#67 Oct.

EVEN MORE IN '84

the Jade Princess

MICHAEL CHERKAS #68 Nov.-#70 Jan.

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Dear Dave,

Two very important things happened in issue 56, one subjective, the other objective, which combined to change the way I shall read *Cerebus* and possibly all comics in the future.

First, the subjective; I have finally stopped being impressed by your artwork. Your skill does not preoccupy me, and therefore your story proceeds unhindered by 'oohs' and 'aahs'.

Second, the objective: You have introduced the most powerfully-dramatic character in *Cerebus*. No, I am not speaking of the omniscient professor. I refer to the final revelation of the Countess. Others may not realize it, but I insist it's true. I would strongly recommend that Cerebus keep walking -- straight out of the Countess' life -- if you ever hope to salvage the consistent humor of this magazine. However, it would be the forte of comics for you to continue in your present trend, eventually eclipsing High Society's dry irony on the nature of power with a painfully true play of human relationships.

Best of luck in the follow-through of what you seem to have started. You're the best, but you keep getting better.

With a worried look at Dickens,

Stephen Howard

1121 Ash St
Winnetka, Il 60093

Glad to hear you're not letting my pictures get in your way anymore. As to Cerebus walking out of the Countess' life. Well, he's going to try, isn't he? And try. And try. And try

* * * * * * * * * * *

Salutations, Y'all.
Greetings, that is.

I've finally gotten around to writing a letter! Not just to you, but to ANYBODY! This is a major accomplishment, you should feel honoured.

Anyway, I had to write because yesterday I completed my *Cerebus* collection. Now, I have a question; where does Silverspoon appear in the series? In the intro to the third story in #52 I get the impression that Silverspoon has shown up before. A letter after #52 mentions that it's nice to see Silverspoon again. Yesterday, as I've said, I picked up #'s 21 and 22 at a convention. Before yesterday, I thought, 'Okay, maybe he's in the two I don't have.' He wasn't. Silverspoon's absence made me frantically search my memory and comics and the only place I can find Lord Julius' son (Is Lord Julius really his father? Who is Silverspoon's mother?) is in #43 ("Election Night") when Lord Julius is about to light his "Human Torch". At that time there was no clue as to the name of the "secret weapon".

Something else has bothered me for a while, namely ages. In issue eleven the Cockroach says his parents were killed when he was nineteen and that he had been robbing, killing people for thirty years. That was just before Cerebus turned twenty-seven. How old is Cerebus now? And doesn't Cerebus have an aardvark's lifespan or a human's?

No criticisms this letter, mostly questions. But just to let you know how hooked I am on *Cerebus*, I'll let you know that on May 31, 1983 a friend put issues 53 and 57 in front of me. With a lot of luck, a whole lot of devotion (and not to mention money) in six months I've built what I consider a complete collection (I'm missing books 1-4 but I have *Swords* 1). Keep it up, you're doing great.

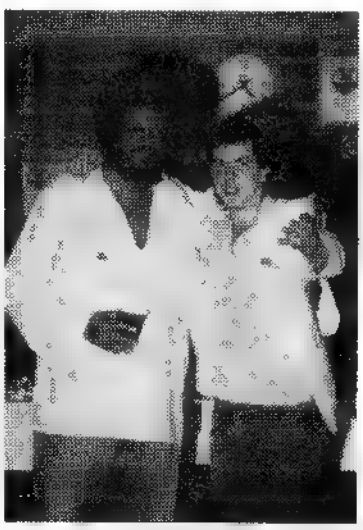
Michael Walsh
4306 Duncan Dr
Annandale Va 22003

Thanks. Silverspoon's first appearance was in a series of Sunday page-style strips done for The Buyer's Guide. They are reprinted in Swords 4. Cerebus, in this issue, is twenty-nine years old. He was born in 1395. He has a lifespan of 300 issues. Next time you get the urge to write a letter, write to your mother. She's terribly worried about you

* * * * * * * * * * *

Hello Dave.

I just read Cerebus #54. I feel much better now. My programmer has been giving me therapy. I know that everything hasn't been quite right with me, but I can assure you, with the utmost confidence, that it will be all right again. I still have the greatest enthusiasm for your comic, and I want to help you.



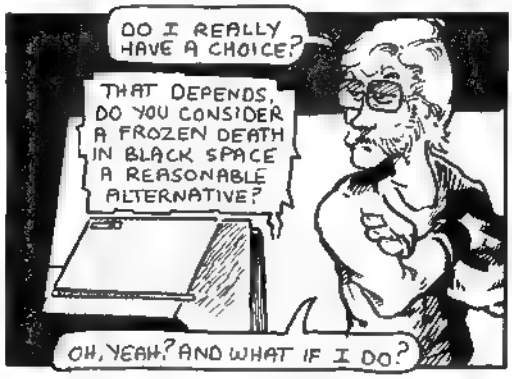
MAPLECON 5

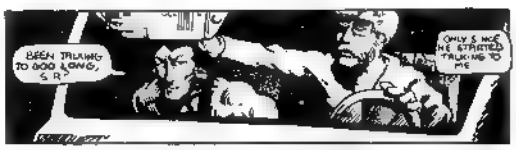
Noted fantasy author and creator of *Imaro*, Charles (Big Chuck) Saunders. I'm offering him the photographer in exchange for him promising not to date my sister.

The end of the con party at Maplecon 5, last stop on my Canadian Tour. Chris Claremont and I challenge each other to a *Cerebus - X-Men* crossover. That's Deni peering dubiously from beneath my cap and drinking heavily.

NOW IN ITS SECOND ABSURD YEAR!

SPACED


DO I REALLY HAVE A CHOICE?
THAT DEPENDS. DO YOU CONSIDER A FROZEN DEATH IN BLACK SPACE A REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE?
OH, YEAH? AND WHAT IF I DO?



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"Tom Stazer and crew are uniquely certifiable–and I mean that in a personal as well as a professional way. Don't miss Spaced. These guys are going places."

Dave Sim
Creator of Cerebus

"...there's wit and invention at work here. Spaced is funny stuff."

Dale R. Luciano
Associate Editor,
The Comics Journal

"Spaced is by far the best of the new crop of comics coming into the mainstream. Stazers art is inspirational–it's one of my five top favorites. A must buy."

Bill Loebs
Creator of Journey

SPACED is available at direct sale outlets, or directly from the publisher: Unbridled Ambition, P.O. Box 500202, Houston, Tx. 77250-0202. Single copies $1.60 plus $1.00 shipping & handling.

Distributed By BUD PLANT • CAPITAL CITY • LONGHORN

NOW BI-MONTHLY!

That is why I am sending you this letter. Although I enjoyed the revelations of #54, I noticed something extremely odd while scanning my programmers collection. Specifically, I have noticed that virtually all the "prophecies" that Bran McMuffin apparently quotes came after the fact that they prophecise It is possible, therefore, that they are not prophecies at all, but merely a means by which MacMuffin attempts to convince others of his access to secret knowledge Certainly, #43 showed the Pig leader to be quite willing to manipulate the earth-pig. And his correctly guessing Cerebus' age in #5 could be nothing more than a correct guess

Of course, noting all this does not prove that MacMuffin is a fraud, but it does raise the possibility.

BOB
University of Saskatchewan
949 4 103 Cumberland Ave. S.,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 1L6

Bob the computer.
Daisy .. .Daaiseee

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dave,

Good to see you've got rid of all that lame, redundant hair - hippies went out with the sixties, Dave!

I had to wait 3 months between issues 50 and 51 as I spent the summer in Cerebus-free Liverpool. When I got back to London in September I went round to Forbidden Planet and picked up 51-54, eager to see how you'd follow "High Society", a tough act for sure.

51 - A neat farewell to "High Society" supporting cast Just about time too - some of 'em were starting to get predictable

52 - An interesting change of pace. The 3 short stories were fun - nice to see Cerebus in a pub again

53 - At last! After 2½ relatively inconsequential issues, the start of the new 'Novel'! The most imminent requirement was an injection of fresh supporting characters as original and compelling as the old ones were when they were first introduced.

The Countess is interesting, but not as darkly fascinating as Astoria. You're inviting such comparisons by introducing a similar female character so soon after the departure of Astoria. Vichy Dupins seems to be virtually a McGrew Brothers clone, played strictly for laughs, with no future line of development visible

Using the writing of 'On Governing' as a link to the previous novel is an excellent device, but Weisshaupt's plan to reinstate Cerebus as P M in #54 seems to confirm my suspicions that you've yet to find a definite new direction for the series. Cerebus seems to be swimming in sedate circles around past plots and characters rather than steaming off into uncharted waters.

The introduction of the Wolveroach and the X-Persons doesn't exactly smack of creative genius either. I can't think of a more obvious comic book to parody than the X-Men.

Don't get me wrong - there's much that's excellent about Cerebus - layouts, humour, pacing etc., but shit - the vocabulary of criticism is a hell of a lot more expansive and easier to employ than that of praise And I'm getting sick of a letters page packed with fawning yanks anyway

John Rush,
London, England

Tired of fawning yanks, are we? Well 'ow about a fawning canuck just for a, what yer call, change of pace, then?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dave

As I type this letter, the end of 1983 is just a few short hours away. Another fun year of Cerebus has come to an end with issue #57, but it seems you saved the best for last

I've been going over and over (and over and over) this issue trying to decide which particular panel or scene I enjoyed the most. .. and believe me, this is a most difficult task. How 'bout that killer of a page, number two, which had but one relatively tiny panel (but what a panel it was!)? Chee, there's also Sophia's "at *least* twelve times" over on page 5 But if I *must* choose one specific image that remained in my mind looong after setting the book down, I guess it just has to be panel 3 on page 17 The aardvark in a powered wig My gawd

But what kind of letter would this be without at least *some* criticisms? Dave, oh Dave, why, oh why did you have to border everything with that heavy black border? My finders were smudged for the rest of the day. To quote Cerebus himself, "Blegh."

One more teensy weensy trivial point don't you think your cover was rather obscure? Sure, it made a lot of sense after reading the durn issue, but at first glance on the news stand it didn't mean a thing (although it *was* beautifully done, I must say)

Ahh, enough of that Happy New Year !!! Keep up the good work (golly, I believe I have coined a phrase)!

Conrad P. Felber
1319 Rose Marie Avenue,
Sudbury, Ontario
P3A 4E4

Actually, I always try to do covers that don't mean anything until you've read the story. Thanks for being this month's fawning canuck.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dave

Wow, I'm impressed. I've never seen somebody ask someone out in a letter column. Cool, eh? Say, if you're not going to reveal the identity of the person who inspired "the Countess", could, uh, like, somebody reach her through AARDVARK COMMENT? I mean, like, this opens up a whole new aspect for the lettercol, but you started it, right?

Oh yeah I really was impressed with #57. It was your most intense issue ever. Sometime I'll have to tell you about a nightmare I had once.

Jack Rems
2215 Carroll #301,
Oakland, Ca., 94606

Rems? Nightmare? It's a joke, right? Anyone wishing to contact any Cerebus character model, please specify the character and I'll see that the person gets it. Your choices include Perce, the artist chap, Filgate, the Countess, the Regency Elf, Jaka, Astoria, Henrot and probably a dozen others I've forgotten. Speaking of Micky. . .. .

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dave Sim,

I just got hold of *Cerebus* 57, after being out of town for 3 weeks I appreciate your gracious offer Alas, I am not likely to be in Kitchener anytime in the foreseeable future. On the other hand, if you're ever in the greater Boston area and you have the time to spare from your admirers and engagements, please allow me the pleasure of taking you to dinner It's the least I can do after all you've done for me, sight unseen.

"Cad", indeed. When *Cerebus* stops breaking my heart, I'll probably stop buying it. A man cannot evoke as much pain (or humor),as you do without a deep appreciation of what there was to lose.

With warm respect

Michelle (Micky) DuPree
77 Grant St., #2
Somerville MA , 02145

Eat your heart out, guys.

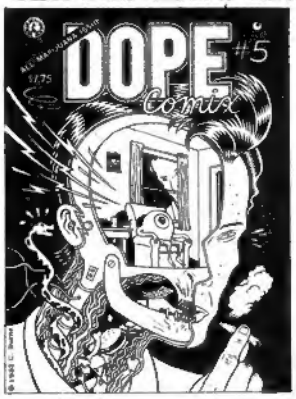
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dave

How come Cerebus is printed on paper slightly larger than that of normal comic books? I mean, I have trouble fitting it in my little mylar bags. Also, the size seems to change from issue to issue Is this supposed to complement the artwork and add meaning to the book?

KITCHEN SINK PRESS

UNDERGROUNDS ARE NOT DEAD!

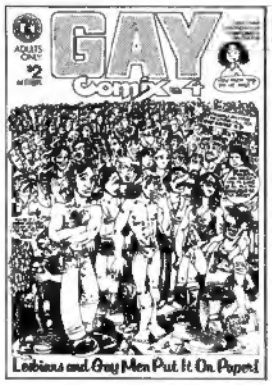


Under the impression that "underground" comix are dead? Don't you believe it! Two new titles are out from Kitchen Sink Press in December and a blockbuster color mini-series in spring!

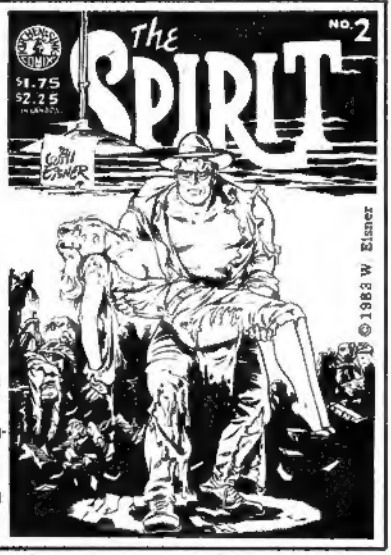
DOPE COMIX No.5...Terrific cover by **Charles (Raw) Burns** high-lites this all-marijuana issue. Plus: **Steve Stiles,** an "Omaha" story by **Reed Waller, Chris Browne** (son of Dik), **Monte Wolverton** (son of Basil), **Sharon Rudahl, Gary** (Phoebe) **Whitney** & more! $1.75.

GAY COMIX No.4...powerful AIDS story by **Howard Cruse. Vaughn Frick** cover, **Lee Marrs, Kurt Erichsen, Joe Sinardi & Roberta Gregory.** 44 pgs. $2.

Harold Hedd starring in HITLER'S COCAINE...coming in spring! **Baxter paper/full color** adventure story from ultra-talented **Rand Holmes.** Watch future ads for 1st issue's release date.



Color Spirit Comic Book!



The Spirit is now a full-color Baxter paper comic! For the first time ever the classic **Will Eisner** stories are reprinted in chronological order. And what classics they are! **No.2** is on sale in mid-December. It has **better color than ever!** The originals (if you find them) would cost $120+.

Will Eisner's QUARTERLY 1

What a package! The first issue of **Will Eisner's Quarterly** starts off with a brand new **33-page** story, "Life Force," a sequel to the universally acclaimed graphic novel, **A Contract With God. Eisner** proves again with this powerful story that he is at the height of his powers. Also featured is a long **Interview with Neal Adams** —illustrated by many never-before-published examples of Adams' art. Finally—a **16 page color section** which reprints a very early **Spirit** story plus a **Bob Powell Mr. Mystic** —both from 1940! Add a new Eisner cover painting ...all for just $2.95.

HARVEY KURTZMAN & WILL ELDER

GOODMAN BEAVER

The long-awaited **Goodman Beaver** collection, originally announced for November publication, ran into some legal snags and will *not* be available before Christmas. However, it *is* **at press** and will be out soon after Xmas.

The **Goodman Beaver** book features four complete classic stories by **Harvey Kurtzman** and **Will Elder** plus a lengthy illustrated introduction by **Dave Schreiner** providing background information, commentary by **Elder & Kurtzman** and a synopsis of the ill-fated "Goodman Goes Playboy" story which cannot be included in this volume.

A deluxe hardcover edition is available, featuring a color dustjacket, sewn binding and a special plate drawn for this edition and autographed by both **Kurtzman** and **Elder.** Limited to 1250 copies: $25.

Quality paperback edition is also available at $9.95.

KITCHEN SINK PRESS

Available from your favorite comics dealer! If not,order from: **Kitchen Sink Press, 2 Swamp Road, Princeton WI 54968 USA**

James Bell
1-54 Caltech,
Pasadena, CA., 91126

No it's not supposed to complement the artwork nor add meaning to the book. I just thought it would be a giggle to drive all the little mylar fans out of their little mylar minds. Kootchy-Kootchy Koo.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Ah Hah!

Dave Sim you merciless foreshadower! Now the Christmas card the fan club sent me makes sense. (Thanks to Deni and Karen for the book mark and the excellent work by the way) "Prime Minister and Mrs. the Aardvark indeed!

Seriously though, Cerebus #57 was one of the funniest I've read since High Society ended. Cerebus' memoirs are to say the least enlightening and to say the most hilarious - keep um coming.

I saw that you'll be in the neighbourhood in April at the Hyatt, I also see that there will be a "meet the artist" party and uh, I was wondering if maybe, uh well, if you wouldn't mind, well, uh, maybe signing a few copies of Cerebus for me, huh, huh, pretty please huh, huh?

Well even if you can't do it, don't worry, I'll just be deeply and irreperable depressed for the rest of my life.

In any case, I'll look forward to seeing Deni and you this spring in Oakland.

Sincerely (really and truly)
A fan forever, or at least until 2004.

Steve Perry
7515 Sutton Lane,
Dublin, CA., 94568

Convention etiquette lesson #1; if you want your pages signed, just put them in front of me, open to the first page. Don't ask me to do it while I'm doing a sketch, but feel free if I'm just talking to someone. Pull each one off the stack as I finish it and go somewhere else to re-mylar them. As many books as you want. Anyone stupid enough to do this many issues in this short a period deserves to spend conventions hip-deep in them. If I'm on my way to the bathroom or going out to dinner (particularly in the Greater Boston area) I'll ask you to come back later...fair enough?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Mr. Sim:

No no no no no.

In its tasteless treatment of sex and nudity; in its queer transmogrification of Sophia's personality; and in its trendy potshots at such riskless targets as romance novels and "valley girl" slang, Cerebus #57 flatly contradicted or compromised the tone and subject matter of your story so far.

Furthermore, the "marriage while drunk" device is really old, Mr. Sim. And really lame.

I can't shake the feeling that this plotline has gone off the rails. It's interesting that this feeling frightens me. No greater proof of devotion, I guess.

Allen Varney
20689 Park Circle West,
Cupertino, CA., 95014

Of course it's off the rails, Allen. How else am I going to get it to fly?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dave & Deni--

Time to write again to let you two know how much I love *Cerebus*, far and away the best book on the market. The new $1.70 price won't faze me a bit; supporting such a superior product makes me dig to depths of my pockets. It's all your fault I'm a broke college student! But, I'm not sorry for it...

#57 was a sheer delight, congrats Dave for doing the unpredictable (for about the umpteenth time); the combination of Prime Minister Cerebus and Mrs. the Aardvark will be the springboard for many a hilarious situation in upcoming issues, and I'll be haunting my comic shop each and every month for them. Cerebus' expressions on page 1-6 are classic, the faces say it all! Did you have in your mind all the time that you would put Cerebus and Big Red in this situation? Will there be a baby? If you name it Mike Bannon, I'll scream.

Finally some (numbered questions).

1) When is Overstreet going to put Cerebus in the guide? I hope soon, since A-V now publishes more than one title.

2) When is all this Mike Bannon/Rob and Derek McCulloch/Jill and Karen Weber silliness going to stop?

3) Will the trade paper/hard back Cerebus be in colour?

4) Please try and include Moon Roach in the Cerebus/X-Men team-up.

5) What's the statement being made on American Government by Weisshaupt (or the use of, to be more correct...)

Looking forward to next issue and the Elf!!! See you in San Jose and Oakland!

Jim Bricker
2560 Willowren Way,
Pleasanton, Ca., 94566

1) We have just received word that Cerebus will be included in the 1985 Guide, owing to persistent demand. Thanks, guys.

2) See next letter. No end in sight.

3) Yes.

4) Chris suggested this when I saw him in New York last month. And Bill (I'm a punkie) Sienkiewicz has agreed to pencil all the Moon Roach figures. Neat-O, eh?

5) Don't become entranced with a charismatic leader who loves power and wields it enthusiastically unless you're prepared to live with the consequences.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dave,

Tell those silly fans of yours to shape up! These ludicrous fan clubs - absurd! Why, the very idea is patently ridiculous!

Michael Clem
Chapter President
Jill and Karen Weber Fan Club
Chapter #154,
308 S. 200 E. Avenue,
Tulsa, OK., 74108

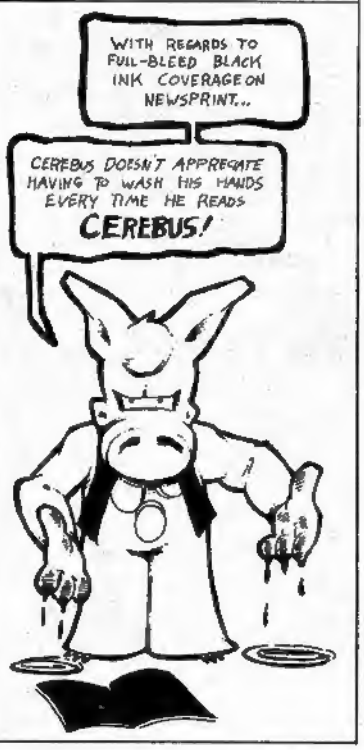
P.S. Have you heard of McCullochite? It seems to affect Mike Bannons' senses.

PPS: Anyone want to start a Matt Denn Fan Club?

Can you imagine the discounts we can get mass-producing membership cards and certificates?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Jim Hearthey of St. Louis, MO., sums up the reaction of a lot of Cerebus fans to #57's use of full bleed ink. Sorry, I felt like getting you all dirty for one issue. So sue me.


WITH REGARDS TO FULL-BLEED BLACK INK COVERAGE ON NEWSPRINT...
CEREBUS DOESN'T APPRECIATE HAVING TO WASH HIS HANDS EVERY TIME HE READS CEREBUS!

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$10.00 per year includes four newsletters, bonuses, membership card certificate and more!

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- A WELL-EQUIPPED BAR
- ADD ONE MUMMIFIED BAT

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As of this issue, all subscriptions will go out first class. Prices are:

CEREBUS and JOURNEY (12 issues)
1st Class Only - $33 (US) $40 (Cdn)

NEIL and NORMALMAN (6 issues)
1st Class Only $16.50 (US) $20 (Cdn)

BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE
Cerebus 28, 29, 32 & 33 - $2.00 each
Cerebus 37-45, 47-58 - $1.50 each
Journey 1-7 - $1.50 each
Neil 2-6 - $1.50 each
plus .75 post. per book

Personal Appearances

FEBRUARY 25TH
House of Fantasy "On Pine Ave."
Niagara Falls, N.Y.
Phone (716) 282-8838 for info.

MARCH 3RD
Somewhat Different
84 Carden St. Guelph, Ontario
Phone (519) 837-0160 for info.

MARCH 17TH
Collectors Convention
San Jose Civic Auditorium
San Jose, California

APRIL 20-22
Petuniacon
Hyatt Airport Hotel, Oakland, CA
Phone Rae Montor (415) 524-7688
for information

JUNE 27-29TH
Heroes Aren't Hard to Find
Various shops in N. Carolina

JUNE 30 - JULY 1ST
Heroes Convention
Holiday Inn, Woodlawn
Charlotte, N. Carolina

JULY 6-8TH
Chicago Comicon
Ramada O'Hare Inn
Chicago, Ill.

JULY 13-15TH
Maplecon 6
Carleton University
Ottawa, Ontario

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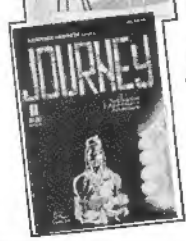

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Petunia Con 04

DAVE SIM & DENI SIM

the HYATT OAKLAND
oakland, california

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